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Cathy Noh

From: Cathy Noh [cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]  
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2010 1:09 PM  
Subject: South Ossetian Response to President Saakashvili's UNGA Speech  
Importance: High

Please consider the following statement from South Ossetia in response to Georgia President Saakashvili's UNGA speech today. If you need further information on South Ossetia, please contact me at +1.202.715.1448 or at [steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com](mailto:steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com).

Best regards,

Steve

**STATEMENT BY SOUTH OSSETIAN PRESIDENT EDUARD KOKOITY IN RESPONSE TO GEORGIA PRESIDENT SAKASHVILI'S UNGA SPEECH ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2010**

In a move that has become as predictable as the sun rising, President Saakashvili stood before the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the U.N. General Assembly today and presented an entirely false and delusional version of history, falling back on tired Cold War rhetoric to drum up support for his belligerent and threatening behavior.

The Republic of South Ossetia is an independent country, and will never - through military might or diplomatic pressure - be forced back into Georgia. It is misguided and counterproductive for Georgia, and its supporters in the U.S., to think or act otherwise. Saakashvili's State Ministry of Reintegration, which was championed by U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden, is trying to convince South Ossetian citizens that we would be better off as part of Georgia. The Georgians make promises about economic prosperity, cultural identity, and autonomy yet their government is doing all within its power to prevent those possibilities for generations. Georgian Governments have always quashed our efforts with arrogance, belligerence, and often violence against our people. Only someone without knowledge of history can believe this will change now.

In fact, Georgia to this day continues to do everything in its power to limit economic development and to ensure that my people will not enjoy any of those rights and freedoms.

After already receiving more than a billion dollars in U.S. support and military weaponry and training, Georgia is once again trying to escalate the conflict in our region by asking America for additional money, arms and diplomatic muscle.

Last week, the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament went to Washington to convince leaders of the United States Congress to pass a resolution demanding the de-occupation of South Ossetia by the Russian Federation. Yet there is no Russian occupation of South Ossetia. Russian troops have been welcomed into in my country to protect our citizens from military aggression from Georgia, just as there are American troops in South Korea offering protection to the citizens of that country. If the U.S. Congress is concerned about Georgia's claims about Russian occupation, its leaders should accept my invitation to send a delegation here to seek the truth for themselves. To pass a resolution based on Georgian delusion and propaganda - rather than the facts - would be not just embarrassing but extremely costly for the U.S. Government and all Americans.

As a deliberative body dedicated to world peace, the U.N. General Assembly would be well served to be wary of President Saakashvili's claims, which are aimed at bolstering his

personal legitimacy by continuing the conflicts that have cost my people their peace and security. The world cannot afford another year of fear-mongering and delusion in the Caucasus.

Eduard Kokoity  
President  
The Republic of South Ossetia

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